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REMARKS

This response is to the Office Letter mailed in the above-referenced case on December 03, 2003. Claims 1-12 are standing for examination. In the Office Letter the Examiner requests that applicant update the status of all related or co-pending applications recited in the specifications. Claim 2 is objected to. Claims 9-12 are indicated as allowed. Claims 2-8 are objected to. The Examiner rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Tullsen et al., hereinafter Tullsen.

In response to the Examiner's rejections, objections and statements, applicant herein amends the specification to update the status of the documents listed in the Cross-Reference on page 1, and amends the claims to overcome the Examiner's objections and to accept the allowability indicated by the Examiner.

The Examiner rejects claim 1 as being anticipated by Tullsen. The Examiner objects to claims 2-8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant herein amends claim 1 to include all of the limitations of dependent claim 2. Claim 1 now recites that the hardware-lock mechanism operates by setting a lock when an atomic memory sequence is started and to clear a lock when an atomic memory sequence is completed, and the lock mechanism comprises one or more storage locations associated with each stream of the processor, each storage location enabled to store a memory address of a lock bit, and a stall bit.

Applicant believes claim 1 is now patentable as amended. Claims 3-8 are patentable on their own merits, or at least as dependent from a patentable claim. Claims 9-12 are indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

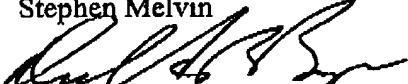
In view of the above amendments, and remarks, it is clear that the present case is now completely allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that this

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application be reconsidered, the claims be allowed, and that this case be passed quickly to issue.

If there are any time extensions needed beyond any extension specifically requested with this amendment, such extension of time is hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid with this amendment, authorization is given to deduct such fees from deposit account 50-0534.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Melvin
by 
Donald R. Boys
Reg. No. 35,074

Donald R. Boys
Central Coast Patent Agency
P.O. Box 187
Aromas, CA 95004
(831) 726-1457